## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

## LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-35.  (Canceled)

36.  (NEW)  A method of negotiation between parties via a networked computer system, comprising:

enrolling a first party computer for a negotiation by the networked computer system;

enrolling a second party computer for the negotiation by the networked computer system;

transmitting a predefined vocabulary and a syntax rule from a broker computer to the first party computer and to the second party computer to describe goods, services, information, or property to be exchanged through the negotiation via a graphical user interface,

the first party computer and the second party computer each preparing a negotiation position comprising statements according to the predefined vocabulary and syntax rule provided by the broker computer,

the first party computer sending an encryption key to the second party computer without sending the encryption key to the broker computer;

the first party computer and the second party computer each partially encrypting their negotiation positions by applying the encryption key, wherein each partially-encrypted negotiating position comprises statements comprising encrypted words and non-encrypted words;

transmitting files comprising the partially encrypted negotiation positions from the first party computer and from the second party computer to the broker computer;

said broker computer comparing statements in the transmitted files from the first party computer and the second party computer;

said broker computer identifying the syntax rule of each statement from the unencrypted words and locating identical encrypted words in the statements;

said broker computer comparing the negotiation positions of the first party computer and the second party computer to find a statement or statements in both negotiation positions;

said broker computer transmitting to the first party computer and the second party computer a basis-for-agreement comprising statements comprising encrypted words found in both negotiating positions;

said first party computer and the second party computer decoding the basis-for-agreement with the encryption key.

37. (NEW) A method according to claim 36, comprising:

the first party computer and second party computer each preparing a negotiation position which comprises a named set of numerical values,

the first party computer and second party computer applying said encryption key to the name of the set of numerical values thereby obtaining an offset and a scaling factor,

applying linear mapping using the offset and the scaling factor to conceal the numerical values of the named set and preserve the order relationship of the numerical values, and

said broker computer comparing the numerical values to which the offset and scaling factor have been applied without knowing the original values.

38. (NEW) A method according to Claim 36, wherein nouns and adjectives are encrypted in a partially-encrypted negotiating position.

39. (NEW) A method according to Claim 38, wherein conjunction, verbs and prepositions are non-encrypted in a partially-encrypted negotiating position.